

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SCS-03 SCA-01 SY-05 CIAE-00

DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-03

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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O R 010325Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2800

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINSHASA 4554

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CASC (SMITH, HUNTER)

SUBJ: KIDNAPPED AMERICANS: DEVLIN MISSION TO MOBUTU

1. DEVLIN FOUND PRESIDENT MOBUT GRAVELY PREOCCUPIED WITH ANGOLAN PROBLEM, REPORTEDLY HEAVY FIGHTING IS UNDER WAY, AND COMMITTED TO CONCENTRATE HIS TIME ON DISCUSSIONS WITH PORTUGUESE DELEGATION WHICH ARRIVED SEPARATELY AT BANDO-LITI FOR TALKS. PORTUGUESE DELEGATION INCIDENTALLY WAS HEADED BY ALVEZ.

2. WHEN DEVLIN FINALLY SAW PRESIDENT, HE BEGAN BY EXPRESSION USG GRATITUDE FOR COOPERATION TO DATE. MOBUTU INDICATED CONCERN OVER KIDNAPPING AND SAID HE WAS IN DIRECT TOUCH WITH PRESIDENT NYERERE. HE TALKED OF PRP AS FEW BANDITS WHO WERE REMNANTS OF REAL REBEL GROUPS LONG AGO VIRTUALLY ELIMINATED. THEY HAD BEEN OFFERED AMNESTY AND REFUSED IT. IN AFTERMATH KIDNAPPING HE HAD CONTEMPLATED SENDING "PARAS" IN TO WIPE THEM OUT AS COULD EASILY BE DONE
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(DEVLIN DEMURRED), BUT MOBUTU WENT ON, "I AM A PARENT

ALSO AND I CAN UNDERSTAND THE FEELINGS OF THE PARENTS OF THESE STUDENTS. THUS, I HAVE ORDERED THAT NOTHING SHOULD BE DONE TO ENDANGER THEIR LIVES. STILL THE GOVERNMENT OF ZAIRE CANNOT DEAL WITH SUCH SCUM AND IT IS UNTHINKABLE THAT RANSOM SHOULD BE PAID".

3. DEVLIN EXPRESSED OUR APPRECIATION FOR PLEDGE RE SAFETY OF STUDENTS AND RAISED QUESTION OF RADIO BROADCAST WHICH MIGHT FACILITATE CONTACT BY OTHER PARTIES. PRESIDENT SAID HE FAMILIAR WITH US PROPOSED TEXT BUT HE WAS NOT PREPARED TO PUBLICLY RECOGNIZE SITUATION. DEVLIN QUICKLY MOVED ON TO NEED ESTABLISH THIRT PARTY INTERMEDIARY WITH KIDNAPPERS. HE STRESSTED US DESIRE COORDINATE FULLY WITH GOZ AND TOLD PRESIDENT OF BISHOP CATARZI'S WILLINGNESS FOR ONE OF HIS PRIESTS ASSIST PROVIDED GOZ AGREED. PRESIDENT SAID PLAN WAS INTERESTING BUT THAT HE WOULD HAVE TO CONSIDER IT CAREFULLY. HE WOULD RETURN TO KINSHASA MONDAY, JUNE 2, AND MATTER COULD BE DISCUSSED FURTHER. IN MEANTIME, AMBASSADOR SHOULD GIVE DETAILS TO FOREIGN MINISTER BULA WHO COULD, OF COURSE, CONTACT HIM BY RADIO. (COMMENT: DEVLIN REMARKED, AND FROM MY EXPERIENCE I AGREE, THAT THIS IS AN UNCHARACTERISTIC MOBUTU REACTION. IN BOTH OUR EXPERIENCES MOBUTU HAS BEEN DECISIVE, OFTER TOO QUICK OFF THE MARK).

4. DEVLIN THEN TOLD MOBUTU TEMPELSMAN WOULD ARRIVE KINSHASA FOR DISCUSSIONS ABOUT MAJOR SMTF COOPER PROJECT. FRIDAY, JUNE 6, AND TRIED TO GET PRESIDENT'S AGREEMENT TO SEE TEMPELSMAN, AGAIN, UNCHARACTERISTICALLY, MOBUTU SAID, 'LET'S BE IN TOUCH ABOUT THAT AFTER MY RETURN TO KINSHASA.'

5. DEVLIN RAISED HIS LAST SUBJECT: DESIRABILITY OF IMF AGREEMENT TO REASSURE BANKERS AND GET ZAIRE BALANCE OF PAYMENTS SUPPORT. PRESIDENT ROSE AND REPLIED THAT HE THOUGHT WELL OF IMF. "WE'RE IN TOUCH". WITH THAT DEVLIN DEPARTED.

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